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Montana Contractors' Association Newsletter

December 22, 2011



**Merry Christmas
from your staff at
the Montana
Contractors'
Association!**

VIPs Line Up to Attend MCA Convention

Senator Jon Tester, Congressman Denny Rehberg, Brian Deery, the Senior Director of the AGCs Highway and Transportation Division, and MDT Director Tim Reardon are among those who are attending the MCA Winter Convention in Big Sky, January 11-13. This is a great opportunity for our members to discuss everything from highway funding to the Keystone Pipeline to federal building projects - and to give your two cents worth! Plus there are meetings, keynote speakers, the Construction Awards ceremony and auction to benefit AGC Student Chapters in Bozeman and Butte. This convention should be a "must" on all MCA members' "to-do" lists!

There are still rooms available, register today on the MCA website at www.mtagc.org.



"3in3" Poll

The Montana Chamber periodically conducts "3in3" polls (three questions in three minutes) on various issues. Now, the Chamber has been asked to report to the Economic Affairs Interim Committee (EAIC) what businesses are saying about workers' compensation following the changes led by the Chamber and passed by the 2011 Legislature and Governor. This 3in3 poll

Quick Links

[MCA Newsletter](#)

[MCA Training Page](#)

[MCA Website](#)

[MCA Winter Convention @ Big Sky](#) -

Online Registration is up!

Calendar

Jan 5-6

Understanding Hydraulics
Butte

[Registration/Information](#)

Jan 11-12

MCA Convention
Big Sky

Jan 18

Highway Technical Committee
MCA Office, Helena
9:00 a.m.

Jan 25

ACI Strength Testing Technician
Butte

[Registration](#)

Jan 26

Bid-Letting
MDT, Helena
9:00 am

Jan 26-27

ACI Field Testing Technician
Butte

asks three work comp and safety questions which can be answered in 3 minutes or less. Please respond to the poll so we can provide accurate information for the EAIC: [Click here](#) to take the poll.



"TIGER" Grant Awarded in Shelby

Construction of the Port of Northern Montana Multimodal Hub will enable Montana shippers to ship and receive containerized international cargo. This project relocates a small BNSF rail facility from a residential and commercial area to an industrial park, expanding the facility to allow the shipment of intermodal unit trains. The grant from the USDOT was \$9.9 million. Click here to see all the [2011 TIGER awards](#).



MCA Board Gives Green Light to "Montana Energy 2012"

Mark your calendars now for the most interesting opportunity of 2012 to learn about construction opportunities in Montana's growing energy industry. The MCA Board this week authorized funding to sponsor "Montana Energy 2012" April 3-4 at the Metra Park in Billings, in conjunction with Kadrmas, Lee and Jackson Engineering, Big Sky Economic Development, and the Montana Petroleum Association. We will be seeking corporate executives of energy companies, energy economists and other experts as keynote speakers and panelists for the conference, and we will organize a large tradeshow featuring a broad array of businesses in the energy field and those seeking to do business with oil & gas, coal, and wind energy firms. MCA members and associate members will be offered a discounted rate for exhibiting at the event, and are encouraged to contact maryann@mtagc.org to discuss exhibit space. Watch for more details, but block out the dates now, because you won't want to miss this event



[Registration](#)

Quote of the Week

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.

- Luke 2:10-12

Header of the Week

Santa is hard at work on the eastern plains of Montana. Have a merry Christmas!

Help AGC Help You

AGC is preparing its 4th Annual Construction Hiring and Business Outlook. One of the most important elements of this Outlook is the information we receive from members. The survey is brief, please click on this [link](#) to take the survey.

Your answers to these questions will help AGC and MCA better understand what is in store for the construction industry next year. This will help us to tailor our legislative outreach, educational and program offerings and media relations efforts to meet your needs.

We plan to share the survey results with chapter staff, the media and elected officials in January. As a result, we are asking members to complete the survey questions by Monday, Dec. 19. We will then analyze the completed questionnaires and use those results to craft our Construction Industry Outlook for 2012.



Tony Martel's Brother-in-Law Named Ambassador to Russia

On December 17th, the Senate confirmed Dr. Michael McFaul as the United States' Ambassador to Russia. McFaul was born in Glasgow and graduated from Bozeman High School.

"It's terrific that we'll have an Ambassador with Montana roots to forge this important relationship. I know that he will serve the people of the United States and Montana with honor, integrity and good old-fashioned hard work," said Senator Max Baucus.

Dr. McFaul received his B.A. in International Relations and Slavic Languages and his M.A. in Slavic and East European Studies from Stanford University in 1986. In 1991, he completed his Ph.D. in International Relations on a Rhodes Scholarship to Oxford University.



MCA Pushes for Realistic, Consistent Prevailing Wages

The MCA testified at a Montana Dept. of Labor hearing last Friday, asking the agency to adopt better procedures for determining prevailing wages and benefits in the building trades. We pointed out the huge discrepancies in some classifications, especially in prevailing benefits, which often do not even cover the cost of providing health care to workers. MCA worked in the Legislature to reduce the number of districts the DOL uses to determine wages, and the agency has the option of using less than the 10 it has historically established, and we urged them to use that discretion to make the prevailing wages/benefits more realistic for the market.



Are You Signed Up?

MCA members are eligible to receive the Data DIGest - AGC's Data DIGest, update/create your AGC of America [member profile](#) to activate your complimentary subscription today.



Construction Recognition Dinner Seeks Award Nominations

The Montana State University Department of Civil Engineering will host the biennial Construction Recognition Awards dinner on Friday, February 24, 2012 at MSU Bozeman. Possibly, you are acquainted with or even work with someone that should be considered for one of these prestigious awards.

The selection committee would appreciate if you would submit names of persons who would qualify for one of these awards. Your input is critical to the continued success of this awards program.

[Click here](#) for a brief description of the awards and the general selection criteria.



CLC Invites All MCA Members to Crisis Communication Presentation

If you are in business long enough, you are going to suffer some kind of a crisis. How you deal with it, and how you communicate how you are dealing with it, will play a significant role in whether your business survives and thrives. At the CLC meeting in Big Sky during the 2012 Convention John MacDonald will take you through some of the most common mistakes, discuss some best practices, and help you determine where your business is prepared.

John MacDonald, Gallatin Public Affairs, assists clients in building and maintaining strong media affairs and communications strategies, and prepares them through real life scenarios for dealing with the inevitable crisis. The CLC group will be meeting on Friday morning, Jan. 13, at Big Sky Resort.

January 11-13, 2012
Big Sky Resort
Big Sky, Montana

Watch for the registration form in the December MCA newsletter. Or register online at www.mtagc.org.



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Our Mission

To help our member companies become the best construction firms in Montana.



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